

## Abdication: Mediation Replication (#9563)

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**Created:** 04/02/2018 04:01 PM (PT)

**Public:** 04/03/2018 12:09 PM (PT)

### 1) Have any data been collected for this study already?

No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

### 2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?

In the context of resource allocation decisions, we plan to test whether rates of generosity differ between baseline and abdication conditions. We predict that rates of generosity will be greater following abdication than at baseline.

Further, we plan to test several possible mediators for this relationship: specifically, we will test the degree to which the allocator feels the other person is generous, the degree to which the allocator wants to give away the better resource, and the degree to which the allocator feels he/she should give away the better resource. We predict that the generosity variable will significantly mediate differences in generosity between the baseline and abdication conditions. We do not have strong predictions about whether the "want" and "should" variables will also be significant mediators.

### 3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

We will measure whether participants take the higher-value gift card for themselves or give the higher-value gift card to other character.

Participants will also report the degree to which they agree with the following items (1 = Not at all; 7 = Completely):

- (1) I feel like I want to give my friend the high-value gift card.
- (2) I feel like I should give my friend the high-value gift card.
- (3) I feel like my friend is generous.

### 4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?

Participants will be assigned to one of two between-participants conditions: baseline or abdication.

### 5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

First, we will test whether the proportion of participants who give away the better gift card differs between the baseline and abdication conditions. Next we will conduct three separate mediational analyses: in each analysis, we will enter condition (baseline or abdication) as the independent variable and choice (generous or selfish) as the dependent variable, and one of the three potential mediators as the mediating variable. That is, we will test mediation separately for each of the three potential mediators.

### 6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

We will exclude any participants who fail one or more of 2 attention checks. These attention checks will include: (i) Did the flight attendant originally hand the gift cards to you or to your friend? (The flight attendant originally handed the gift cards to ME vs. The flight attendant originally handed the gift cards to MY FRIEND); and (ii) Which gift card did you take for yourself? (High-value gift card vs. Medium-value gift card).

### 7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.

We will recruit 330 participants from Amazon Mechanical Turk. We anticipate that up to 10% of participants may fail one or more attention checks, and so this sample size allows us to target about 300 participants (150 per condition) after exclusions.

### 8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

We will also test for mean-level differences on the potential mediating variables between the abdication and baseline conditions. We expect that perceptions of generosity will be greater in the abdication condition than in the baseline condition. We do not have strong predictions about mean-level differences for the "want" and "should" variables.

We will also conduct exploratory analyses for which we do not have strong predictions. Specifically, we will also conduct a mediation analysis in which the three potential mediators (want, should, generous) are entered into the model in parallel. Furthermore, we will test for correlations among the three potential mediators.

Participants will be asked to report demographics (gender, age, ethnicity).